EXHIBIT I (15 pgs)

PROVISIONAL PATENT APPLICATION

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INSTRUMENT BEZEL FOR AN AUTOMOBILE

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Invention Disclosure

Inventor:

Douglas M. Jennings

Title of Invention:

Instrument Bezel for an Automobile

Docket Number:

1712-0001

Description of Problem:

Many automobile drivers either choose or require more information about the status of their vehicle's engine than is made available by the manufacturer. Often, it is very important for a driver to monitor an engine's revolutions per minute, the voltage levels produced by the engine, the amount of oil in an engine, the air and fuel mix ratio in the engine as well as the water temperature. However, most car manufacturers do not choose to make the instruments necessary for such measurements available from the factory. Owners are forced to add the instruments to their vehicles on their own. The result can not only be unsightly, but can also pose a significant safety risk. Some instrument clusters designed for additional instruments, such as A-Pillar instrument pods, can obstruct the driver's view of the road, while others are positioned such that constant monitoring of these instruments can significantly distract the driver from the road.

Description of Invention:

The present invention facilitates the addition of supplemental instruments to a vehicle while maintaining a clear and unobstructed view of the road for the driver without placing the instruments in a location which would make reading these instruments

awkward and unsafe. The present invention provides a safe and convenient new apparatus and method for facilitating instrument mounting within a vehicle such as an automobile.

The invention relates to a bezel 1 which surrounds the traditional instrument panel located behind the steering wheel in the dashboard of a car, directly in front of the driver. The bezel 1 includes a piece of material which serves to replace the factory produced instrument panel bezel, but also contains openings which allow for additional instruments and gauges. The bezel 1 possesses a right opening 2 and a left opening 4, as shown in Fig. 1, that are prepared to accept instruments of various sizes, depending upon the application. The bezel 1 would also have a lower instrument housing portion 6 as well as an upper instrument housing portion 8 that would be connected by a right housing portion 10 and a left housing portion 12. These housing portions would create a center opening 14 and surround the stock instrument panel when installed in a vehicle.

Fig. 1 shows a front view of an uninstalled and unpainted bezel 1 configured to accept additional instruments in the right opening 2 and the left opening 4. Fig. 2 shows a rear view of the uninstalled and unpainted bezel 1 without any additional instruments in the right opening 2 and the left opening 4. Figs. 3-7 show more views from different perspectives of the uninstalled and unpainted bezel 1 without any additional instruments in the right opening 2 and the left opening 4. Figs. 8-11 show the dashboard of a vehicle with the manufacturer's instrument panel bezel removed to define a mounting space 18. Mounting space 18 will accommodate the installation of bezel 1. Figs. 12-14 show different perspectives of the same dashboard from Figs. 8-11 with the unpainted bezel 1 partially installed in mounting space 18. Figs. 15-18 show the same dashboard from Figs. 8-11 with the unpainted bezel 1 installed into the proper location in mounting space 18. There are no instruments located in the right instrument opening 2 and the left opening 4 in Figs. 15-18. Fig. 19 shows an installed and painted bezel 1 with additional instruments 20 in the right opening 2 and the left opening 4. Note that in Fig. 19, the view of the manufacturer installed instruments 16 located within center opening 14 is not obstructed, yet the additional instruments are located directly in front of the driver. The bezel 1 is made of fiberglass, but can be constructed from a variety of materials, including but not limited to plastic, carbon fiber and metal. The bezel 1 can also be painted to match the

interior color of the vehicle, such as shown in Fig. 19. As shown in Fig. 19, the bezel 1 would locate the instruments 20 in the right opening 2 and the left opening 4, locating the instruments 20 next to the factory installed instruments 16 and in a natural and unobstructed location for viewing. The right opening 2 and the left opening 4 could be formed to be one of a plurality of sizes (e.g. internal diameters) to accommodate a variety of instruments of different sizes, including but not limited to instruments for monitoring oil levels, voltage levels, air and fuel mix ratios, engine revolution speed, oil pressure, water temperature, and fuel levels.